

WRITE WASHINGTON, D.C. USA." Thus, the finder of a band knows where to send it, and the Bird Banding Laboratory has a number to use in locating all the banding information for a particular bird.

#### who can band birds?

Anyone who is at least 18 years old and knows how to identify all of the common birds in their different seasonal plumages may apply for a banding permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant must furnish the names of three well-known bird banders or ornithologists who can vouch for his fitness as a bird bander. Only those persons who are well qualified and have research projects in mind are issued banding permits.

#### how can we all help?

Not everyone can or wants to band birds, but we can all help the work of bird banding by sending in the bands we find. In fact, this important study of birds would fail were it not for the many people who report bands. Banding is only one phase of the work—the bands must be found and returned.

#### where are we most likely to find bands?

Hunters should always look at the legs of the game birds they shoot, since many of these birds carry bands. Dead birds along our highways and birds washed up at the seashore may have bands on them. Fishermen sometimes catch banded birds in their nets and on their lines. Sometimes banded ducks are found in beaver and muskrat traps.



Keeping accurate records is an important part of every bander's work. Here, a hen wood duck has just been marked with a colored neck streamer so that she can be identified from a distance without having to recapture her.



This band was found on a dead pelican on the shore.

#### what to do when you find a band

When you find a band, straighten it out and tape it securely to a piece of heavy writing paper. With the band, send in the following information:

1. Your name and address (plainly printed)
2. All numbers and letters on the band
3. The date you found the band
4. The place you found the band (mileage and direction from the nearest town, with County and State)
5. How you found the band (on a bird found dead, shot or caught in some other way)
6. Place in an envelope, mark the envelope "Hand Cancel," and send to the following address:  
Bird Banding Laboratory  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Laurel, Md. 20810

What do you do if you find a live banded bird? *Do not* remove the band, but carefully read the number on the band, write it down, and release the bird. We may learn more about where it goes or how long it lives. Send in all the information you can about finding the banded bird to the Banding Laboratory. If it is a tiny bird, you will not see the name and address of the Laboratory on the band because it will be on the inside of the band. There isn't room for it on the outside. And remember, *don't take the band off; you might injure the bird.*

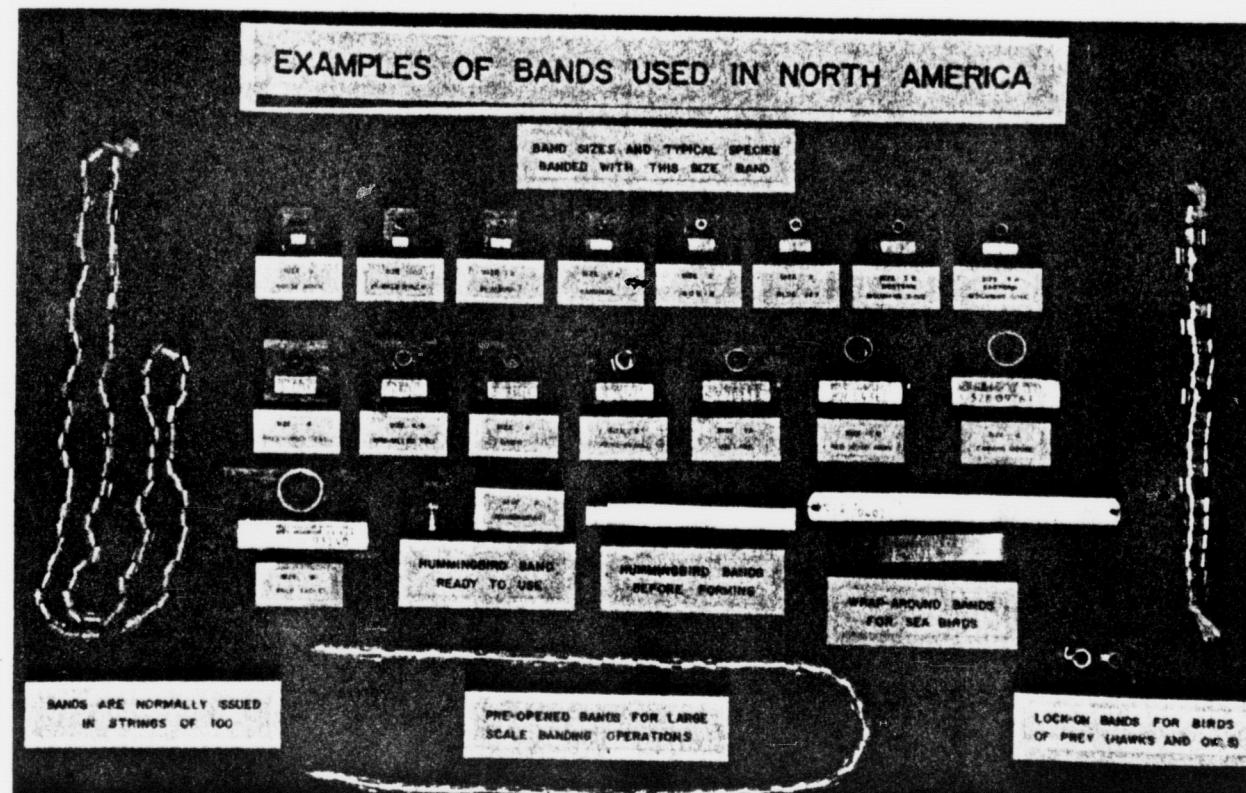
Later you will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Bird Banding Laboratory telling you where the bird was banded, what kind it was and who banded it. The person who banded it will also learn where and when you found the band.

#### we must work together

Birds pay no attention to state or national boundaries. From our banding work we've learned that many species of birds have long migration routes that carry them through or into a number of countries. A species may nest in Canada, migrate through the United States and winter in Mexico or Central and South America. Some species even cross the Atlantic Ocean to Africa or cross the Pacific from western Canada and Alaska to the Soviet Union and Japan. For this reason, if bird banding is to be of value, many groups must work together. Bird banding is the particular responsibility of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Canadian Wildlife Service. But these two agencies must have the help of State and Provincial conservation departments and of private groups and persons interested in conservation. People in Canada and Mexico, as well as South American countries, help us trace the movements of many far-ranging birds.

As we have seen, some birds spend parts of each year in different countries. These birds need places to feed and rest safely wherever they go. Protecting and feeding them in one country is not enough. All the countries through which they pass must be interested in saving them. Bird conservation is not one country's problem; it must be an international effort.

The 17 different sizes of bands used by American banders.



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